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MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

ORDER

New Delhi, the 12th February 1961

No. 5/5/61-Poll. III.—The Government of India have for some time now been considering with serious concern the activities of His Highness Maharaja Pravir Chandra Bhanjdeo Kakatiya of Bastar. The Maharaja, like the Rulers of other former Indian States, executed a covenant of merger and the Bastar State was integrated with Madhya Pradesh in January 1948. Soon afterwards, however, reports began to reach the Government of India that the Maharaja was leading a life of depravity and indulging in very objectionable activities and it appeared that he had not reconciled himself to the merger of his State. He was distributing money and appealing to the people in the Bastar district for their assistance in recovering his Gaddi.

2. Because the Maharaja was behaving in an erratic and irresponsible manner and was squandering his resources and had proved himself incapable of looking after his properties, his estate was placed under the management of the Madhya Pradesh Court of Wards in June 1953. Thereupon the Maharaja embarked on an active campaign of creating disaffection among the people of Bastar and inciting them to acts of violence and lawlessness. The activities of the Maharaja became a source of danger to the maintenance of public order in the Bastar district.

3. In January 1961 the Maharaja paid a visit to Delhi and later went to Lucknow, Calcutta and Cuttack. During his visits to these places the Maharaja issued a series of press statements. He indicated that if his estate was not released from the Court of Wards and his so-called grievances not redressed, he would raise the standard of rebellion in the inaccessible tract of Abhjumar in the Bastar district. He said he would "consider the treaty of accession as a scrap of paper" and become the "arbitrary Ruler of Bastar". He further stated that "Abhjumar was a completely independent area" and that "the Maria tribals do not recognise the Delhi Government, they only know their own Maharaja". He concluded that he would "declare himself an independent Ruler of the people of Abhjumar area in the Bastar State".

4. The Maharaja has also been threatening to use his influence among the people of Bastar to foment disorder and rebellion. He said that the people of Bastar would rise in armed rebellion and there would be a large-scale massacre as happened during the rebellion of 1910.

5. The Maharaja has also declared his intention of forming a Chamber of Princes to present a united front against the Government and raise a demand from the Princes for the restoration of their States to them. He said the new Chamber of Princes would work for the establishment of a Hindu State in India,

6. The President has regretfully come to the conclusion that the Maharaja is engaging himself in extremely prejudicial activities and that he has forfeited all claims to the continued enjoyment by him of his present position as the Ruler of the former State of Bastar.

7. Accordingly, in exercise of the powers vested in him under article 366(22) of the Constitution, the President hereby directs that, with effect from the date of this Order, His Highness Maharaja Pravir Chandra Bhanjdeo Kakatiya of Bastar do cease to be recognised as the Ruler of Bastar, and that his brother, Yuvraj Vijay Chandra Bhanjdeo Kakatiya, be recognised as the Ruler of Bastar in his place.

V. VISWANATHAN, Secy.